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Saigon Calls Urgent Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu has summoned the chief of South Vietnam's Paris peace talks delegation and the ambassador to Washington to Saigon for urgent consultations concerning negotiations aimed at a Vietnam settlement, official spokesmen in Saigon announced Saturday.

The South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said that Ambassador Pham Dang Lam had been recalled from Paris and Ambassador Tran Kim Phuong from Washington. A spokesman said he had no specific details.

There also were reports that the South Vietnamese ambassador to London, Vuong Van Bac, also had been summoned back to Saigon, but the Foreign Ministry said it could not confirm this.

Rumors were circulating in Washington that an internationally supervised cease-fire has been agreed upon at the private talks in Paris. According to these rumors making the rounds, China, Russia and France would serve as the supervisors of the cease-fire.

"I have no information on this," said the South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman in Saigon. "Rumors are all over. The ambassadors are being called back to Saigon to clear up speculation and other problems."

The settlement also was reported to include a variation of a three-segment government which would include representatives of the Thieu regime, South Vietnam neutralists and members of the National Liberation Front, the political arm of the Viet Cong.

This coalition would prepare for a general election to be held in South Vietnam to determine its future form of government.

State Department officials warned against speculation that minimized the difficulties ahead in reaching any kind of settlement.

Le Duc Tho, it was noted, pointed out the difficulties still to be surmounted and U.S. Presidential Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said he would not challenge Tho's assessment.

The slight crack in the official wall of secrecy surrounding the negotiations appeared after Kissinger and his top assistant, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., reported to Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers on their talks with North Vietnamese negotiators Xuan Thuy and Tho.

When Tho, a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo, left Paris Friday for Moscow, and Hanoi he reportedly told Chinese and Russian officials at Orly Airport that there still are many difficult things to settle.

At the White House, Ziegler was asked about Tho's statement and acknowledged — in a roundabout fashion — that many obstacles remain when he said: "We would not challenge Le Duc Tho's statement."

Other than that cryptic comment, and a Ziegler assertion that "we are hopeful that the negotiations will be productive, as we said before," the White House maintained its silence on the unprecedented round of private talks.

"I cannot characterize in any way, or discuss in any way, the negotiations," Ziegler repeated several times before telling persistent questioners that "I'm not prepared to discuss this subject any further."

The spokesman did say, in response to a barrage of questions, that there is no change in the U.S. policy of bombing military targets in North Vietnam and of mining Communist harbors.

He also said there are no plans for Kissinger or Haig to meet with Thieu.

Tho's return to Hanoi was viewed as a signal that North Vietnamese leaders were at a point where major decisions are required. And it was seen as an indication that there could be a month-long pause in the private talks, perhaps until after the Nov. 7 election.

Previously, when Tho returned to Hanoi via Moscow and Peking, about a month elapsed before he returned to Paris. As he left Friday, newsmen asked whether he would be returning to the French capital. "If the occasion comes up, I will return," he replied.

He reportedly assured diplomats in Paris that he would be returning, although it could not be determined when.

Before a crackling fireplace in the White House family dining room, Nixon conferred with Kissinger, Rogers, and Haig, Kissinger's top assistant on the National Security Council.

As photographers recorded the start of Friday's breakfast, the quartet sipped orange juice and chatted of events far removed from war and peace — baseball and Nixon's political trip to Atlanta Thursday.

As the photographers entered, Nixon was heard referring to the World Series when he asked, "Oakland against who?" Then, after a pause, he answered his own question: "Cincinnati."

"Today?" he asked Rogers. "Tomorrow," the cabinet member replied.

"I can't tomorrow," sports fan Nixon said, mentioning the congressional drive toward adjournment and the planned Senate vote on his \$250-billion spending ceiling legislation.